



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR PEREZ RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S INVITE TO URBAN VIOLENCE MEETING

-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

(January 13, 2006)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez says it took Governor Rell almost a year, but he is pleased that she has invited city mayors to meet with her on the issue of youth violence in urban neighborhoods.

Mayor Perez says, "Connecticut mayors have been asking for this kind of time and attention to this issue. We asked for it almost a year ago. Just recently many mayors took part in a conference call to discuss a bi-partisan effort to develop a long-term strategy to combat youth violence. A letter to the Governor was being circulated to be signed by all the mayors when the Governor learned of our latest efforts."

Just this week, Mayor Perez has called for shifting more state funds to preventive programs like after-school activities and job training instead of programs that deal with our young people after they get into trouble. Mayor Perez wants the state to strengthen gun laws, especially in the areas of tracking illegal firearms and reporting lost and stolen guns. In addition, last month, Mayor Perez called on the state to provide better supervision of those on parole and probation.

The meeting to discuss youth violence in urban areas with the Governor is set for February 14th at 11 a.m. in the State Capitol's Executive Chambers. Fourteen mayors and a town selectman have been invited. Mayor Perez will attend.